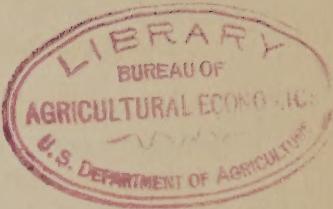


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Adjustment Administration
Division of Information

PEOPLE AND NATURAL RESOURCES



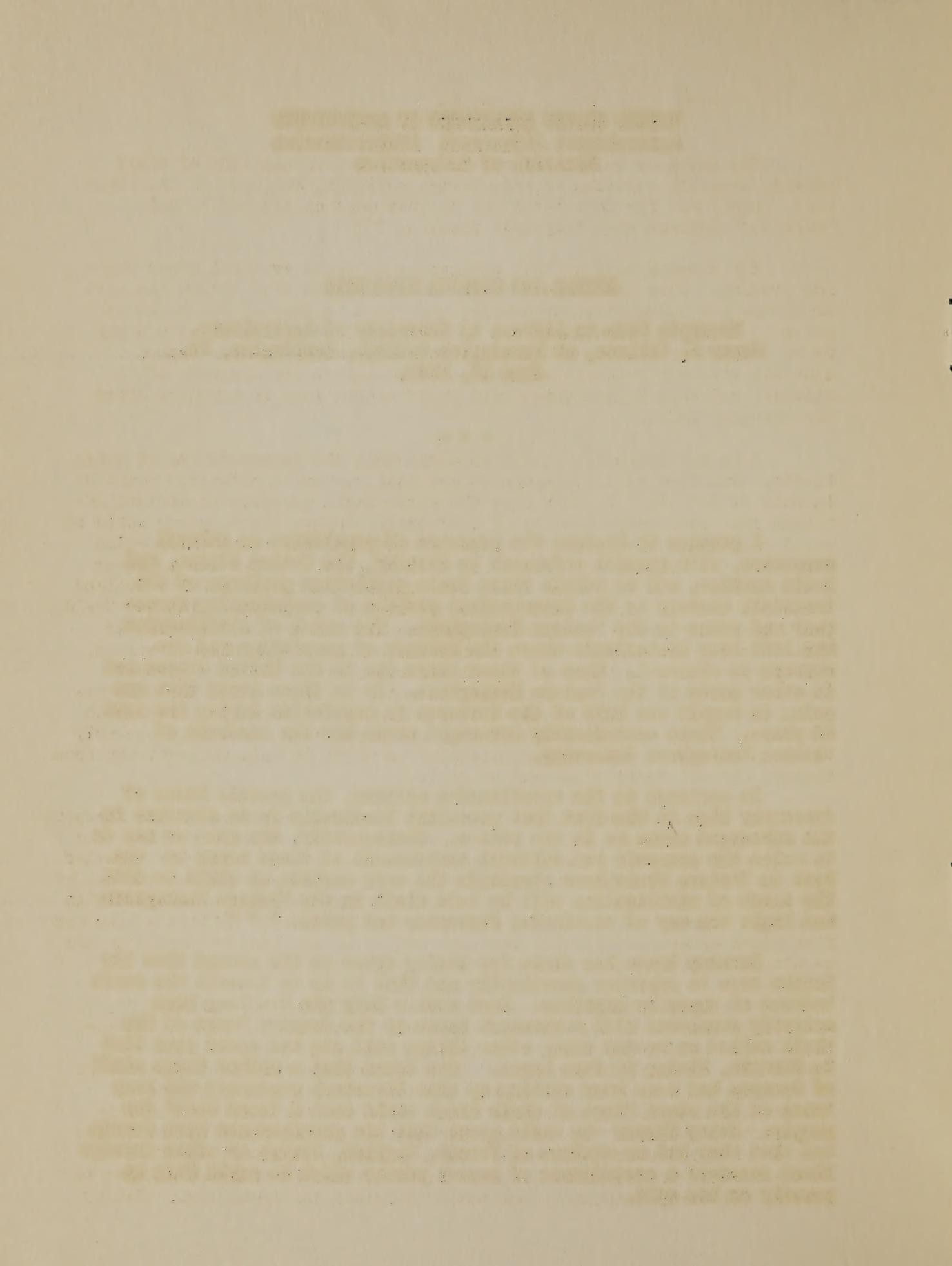
Excerpts From an Address by Secretary of Agriculture,
Henry A. Wallace, at Bennington College, Bennington, Vt.,
June 15, 1940.

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I propose to discuss the pressure of population on natural resources, with special reference to Germany, the United States, and Latin America, and to relate these basic population problems of the twentieth century to the transcendent problem of perpetuating democracy and peace in the Western Hemisphere. The march of civilization has left many hinterlands where the balance of population and resources is abnormal. Some of these areas are in the United States and in other parts of the Western Hemisphere. It is these areas that are going to supply the bulk of the increase in population during the next 25 years. These economically submerged areas are the seedbeds of Western Hemisphere democracy.

In contrast to the totalitarian nations, the genetic basis of democracy lies in the fact that potential leadership is as abundant in the submerged areas as in the others. Consequently, the more we can do to raise the economic and cultural environment of these areas to the best in Western Hemisphere standards the more certain we shall be that the torch of civilization will be held aloft in the Western Hemisphere and light the way of continuing democracy and peace. * * *

Germany bases her claim for living space on the ground that the German race is superior genetically and that it is to inherit the earth because of superior capacity. Last week a lady who had long been actively connected with a movement known as the Country Women of the World called on me and among other things said she had spent some time in Bavaria, living in farm homes. She found that a rather large staff of Germans had been busy setting up what livestock producers who keep track of the blood lines of their stock would call a "herd book" for people. Every farmer who could prove that his grandparents were German and that they had no mixture of French, English, Jewish or other foreign blood received a certificate of racial purity which he could hang up proudly on his wall.



The European Germans of recent years, out of one side of their mouths, urge the creation of more German children, and, out of the other side, loudly ask for more territory to take care of the additional "superior" Germans whom they have created. * * *

The Germans look on this hemisphere as their eventual happy hunting grounds. Once the leaders of the German regime have stolen the soil of Europe and subjugated its people, they hope to channel New World exports to Europe through their own corporations, bartering in such a way as to create the maximum of economic nuisance value, looking toward eventual military penetration, and anticipation of the creation of military nuisance values which will yield either loot or conquest after the European model.

I am not defeatist enough to admit that the German method is going to win. But I am realist enough to ask what the world situation would be in case it did win. In such case the world would probably be divided for a time into four great spheres of influence. Number one in power would be the German-controlled area of Europe, Africa, and the territories which once were the British and French colonies of Asia. Number two in power would be North and South America, with possibly Australia and New Zealand included. Number three would be Russia; number four Japan. The New World would have only about one-third as much population as the Germanic Old World but she would have twice as much in the way of petroleum reserves, six times as much in the way of coal reserves, and a slightly greater electric output. In terms of actual output of coal, the New World in recent years has been only about as productive as the Germanic world which may come into being. In terms of iron ore production, we should probably be about three-fourths as good, although we might be able to equal and even surpass the Old World if we had to do it.

If Germany wins, she will have the complete resources of the European and African continents and a slave population of 400 million people. She will be more powerful in many respects than all the New World put together. Force and force alone counts with Nazis. A German economist who was one of the ablest of all the statisticians in the German government before Hitler says that Germany has spent the equivalent of 20 billion dollars a year for five years on armaments. The American public is not even yet awake to the magnitude of the problem we are facing.

If a huge Germania corporation were to control the purchase of all of the exports of agricultural products from the New World to Europe, the effect would be felt on every farm and in every home in the New World. For example, 93 percent of the meat exports from Latin America go to Europe. This is a matter of the greatest concern to the Argentine, Uruguay and Brazil. If Argentina didn't like the terms of the Germania corporation, she might try to dump her meat on the American market to the disgust of the Western cattlemen. Seventy million dollars' worth of Latin American coffee go to Europe. This is a matter of great concern to Brazil, Colombia, Venezuela, Guatemala, Salvador and Costa Rica. Nearly

70 million dollars' worth of wool go from Latin America to Europe, chiefly from Argentina and Uruguay. More than 50 million dollars' worth of cotton, mostly from Brazil, have found a market in Europe. Argentina markets about 35 million dollars' worth of linseed and 50 million dollars' worth of corn annually in Europe. Cuba sells about 25 million dollars' worth of sugar. Argentina sells about 40 million dollars' worth of wheat, oats, and minor cereals. Of the 550 million dollars' worth of Latin American agricultural products normally sent each year to Europe, the greater part comes from Brazil and Argentina. These two nations both have strong racial minorities whose sympathies may possibly be with Germany and Italy. Both Brazil and Argentina are exceedingly rich in potentialities; both have small populations relative to their huge natural resources.

The United States has normally sent agricultural exports to Europe worth about the same or a little more than the agricultural exports of Latin America. Of our exports of tobacco, wheat, cotton, apples, pears, dried prunes, raisins, cured pork and barley, we normally send from 70 to 80 percent to Europe. Of our canned fruit and oil cake exports, we send from 90 to 100 percent to Europe. In the case of lard, two-thirds ordinarily goes to Europe. From one-half to three-fourths of our corn exports find their way to Europe. It would seem therefore that Europe absorbs as high a percentage of agricultural exports from the United States as of the agricultural exports from Latin America.

In the case of Canada, European exports are fully as significant as with either the United States or Latin America. Canada's exports to Europe are ordinarily worth about 200 million dollars. Nearly all of her apple, lard, cured pork and tobacco exports go to Europe. Of Canada's wheat exports, which ordinarily amount to a little over 100 million dollars, 85 percent goes to Europe.

It may be seen, therefore, that this entire hemisphere has a tremendous stake in the European market. If Europe organizes herself, so that all buying is done through one corporation, it is obvious that this hemisphere will have before it a job of consultation about the immediate organization of an effective bartering agency sufficiently powerful to play the same game as the Germans. * * *

It is easy for any student of population to realize that the New World is like a magnet which tends to draw to it the surplus population of Asia and Europe. Our problem is to develop the New World by means of an increased number of people who have or can be imbued with those ideas which are essential to a planned, efficient democracy. The pressure from the foes of democracy will be enormous, but we shall have to stand pat making concessions only after we have carefully thought through our fundamental position.

The greatest opportunities of the future are certain to be on this hemisphere. Here is where unused resources are most abundant, where

population is growing most rapidly, and where the young folks outnumber the old people most greatly. * * *

No matter who wins this war, I have the belief that when the war comes to an end there will be more light and hope on this hemisphere than anywhere else on this troubled earth. In nearly all of the New World, population pressure on natural resources is far less than in any other large area and the economic after-effects of the war will almost certainly be less. If we in the United States are to be safe in this favored position, it is exceedingly important that we should be better informed concerning the history and culture of the 20 Latin American republics. In studying the 18 Spanish-speaking republics, it is important to remember that their culture is no more Spanish than the culture of the United States is English. True it is that many of our customs are English and many of their customs are Spanish, but we are both drawn together by the American belief in a democratic progressive future which is based in considerable measure on the fact that we both have tremendous natural resources and a rather small population. Even the countries of Latin America don't intend to see these resources drained off to Europe or Asia in a way which harms our future. The great liberators of Latin America got their ideas about the rights of man from the United States and from France. The Latin-American and English-speaking American traditions can be united in the name of America if we in the United States will give as much time and effort to understanding Latin America as the Latin Americans are giving to the understanding of the United States. If we do not do our part, the day may easily come when in Latin America we shall be faced with many types of hyphenated Americans who will feel that their primary allegiance is to one or another of the various types of dictatorship overseas. The magnetic current of American good will, good trade, understanding, culture, language, and travel should run more largely North and South rather than East and West. * * *

During the next hundred years it seems to me to be almost certain that the growing point of civilization will be found in the New World. For many decades the United States, because of her superior industrial development, great natural resources, and trained citizenry, will be the greatest single factor. We must consciously shoulder hemispheric responsibility, not only in terms of our own welfare but in terms of the welfare of these two continents. * * *

Anyone who studies the natural resources of this country in relation to the world, anyone who studies the population of this hemisphere in relation to its natural resources, cannot help reaching the conclusion that the world civilization of the next hundred years, at least, depends chiefly on us. New scientific discoveries may shift the importance of natural resources as we now know them. It is possible that the science of the future combined with the more rapidly-growing population of Canada and Latin-America may eventually reduce the importance of the United States on this hemisphere. The immediate future, however, is ours in a most extraordinary degree; I have no question whatever about the opportunity.

My only question has to do with whether we shall wake up sufficiently after this World War to conduct ourselves with a wisdom greater than that which we employed after World War No. 1. Twenty years ago we were like a boy who has had to take on family responsibilities at the age of 16. We are older now; we have benefitted from that experience, and we can and will do a better job after World War No. 2. * * *

The world has become one world in a most sudden, alarming, and complete sense. Many of us who have been raised in the world of yesterday will find it difficult to change our attitudes. On the younger people rests responsibility for understanding the world as it actually is today, in order that they can make every minute of every day count toward building security for those sacred democratic rights for which the peoples of this hemisphere stand.

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which are to be used at each of the stations where oil
and gas are produced. This requires the use of both their own
and other's property. It is a difficult task to regulate or divide
oil in one case by mutual agreement without the result of loss and cost and if a
new law be made, compensation shall make regulation easier and more stable than all
the present laws.

But, gentlemen, you have all been very anxious that others will
interfere in affairs which are not your business and you are to have entire autonomy
among yourself all of you. And therefore you expect no interference in your little
affairs of government all the better will you be enabled to manage your own affairs
alone. Please know and believe the author wrote this paper for your sake and
to enlighten you about your rights and interests before you go to the Legislature and that